原作：麻生羽呂
Haro Aso
作画：黒田高祥
Takayoshi Kuroda
今際の路
Alice on Border Road
1
SUNDAY GX COMICS

“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.”

Lewis Carroll,
Alice in Wonderland

今際の路の果

Alice on Border Road

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Takayoshi

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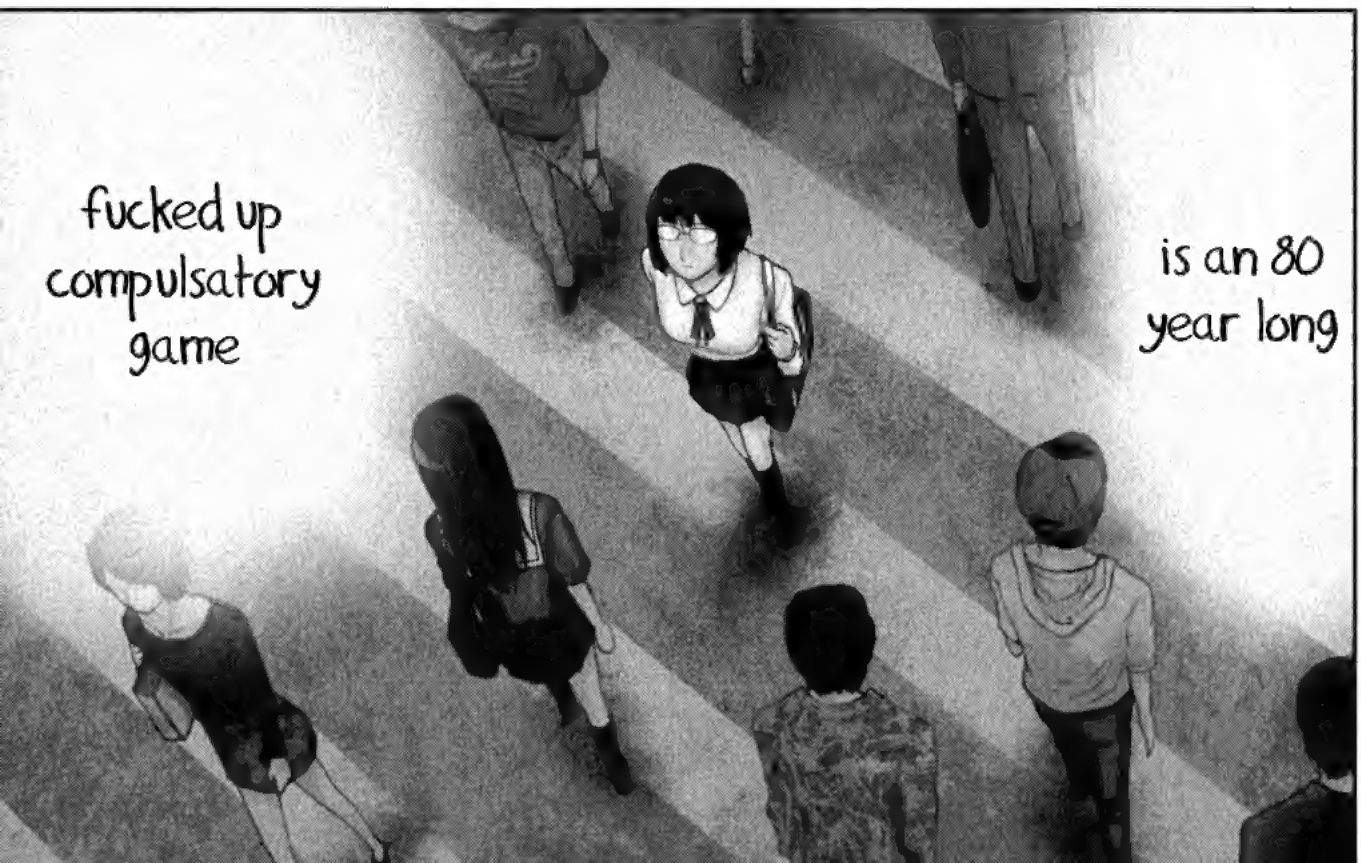
[Chapter 1] Alice on Border Road

I was arbitrarily born into it before I realized anything
I didn't wish for any of it
I didn't ask for any of it
Life...
And then, some day I'll die without wanting to



(Chapter 1)
Alice on Border Road

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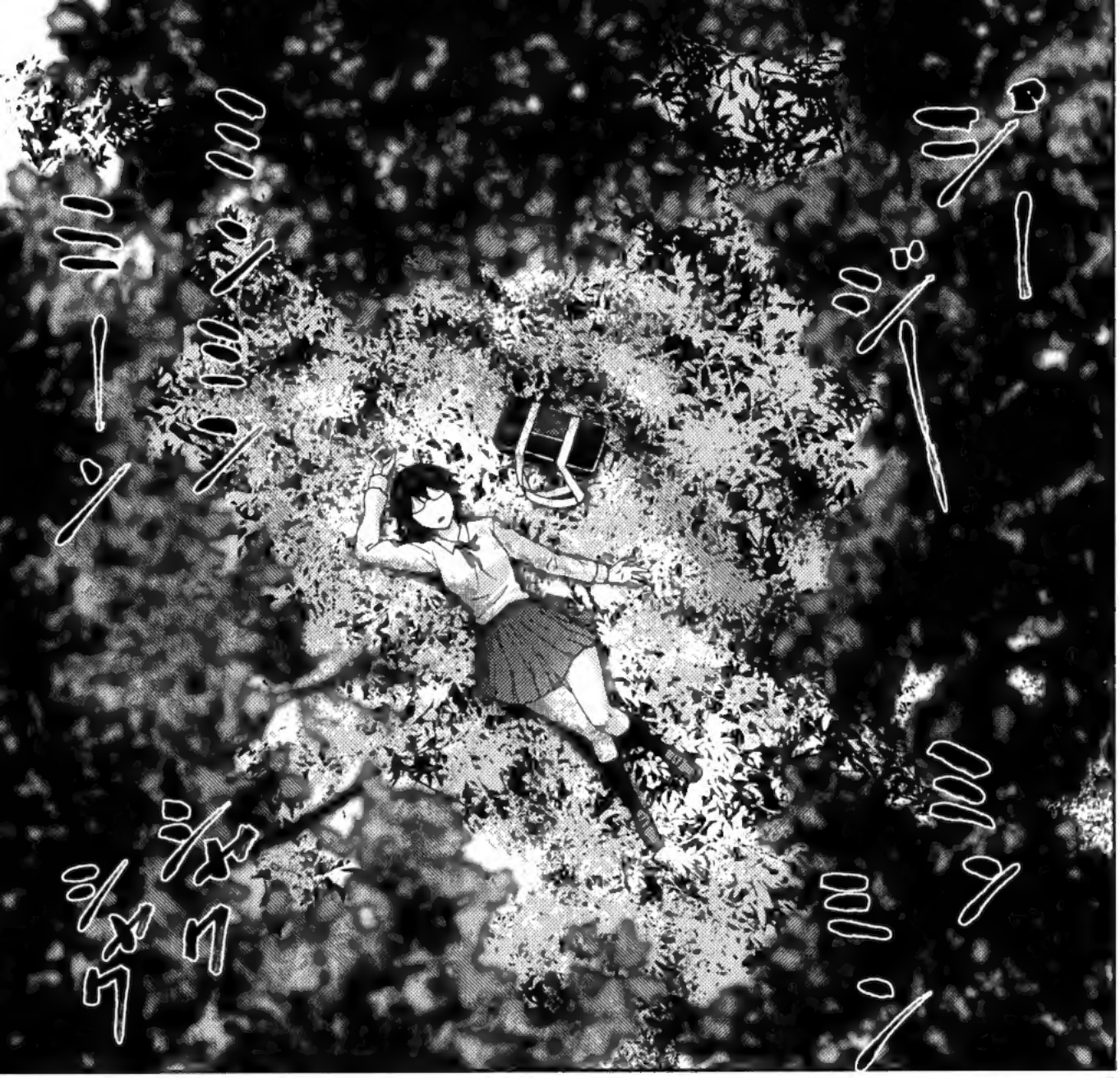
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WHERE
…AM I?

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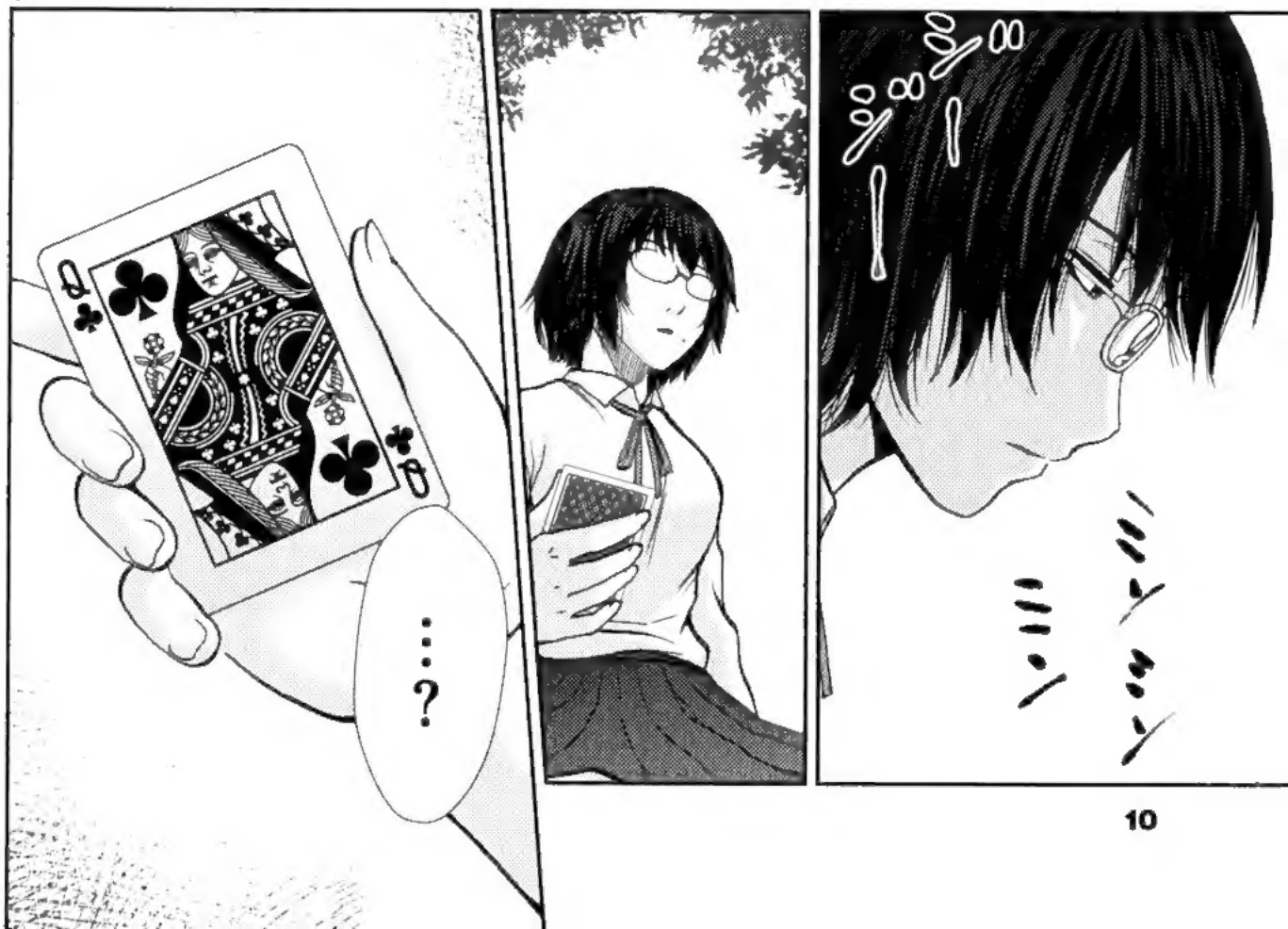

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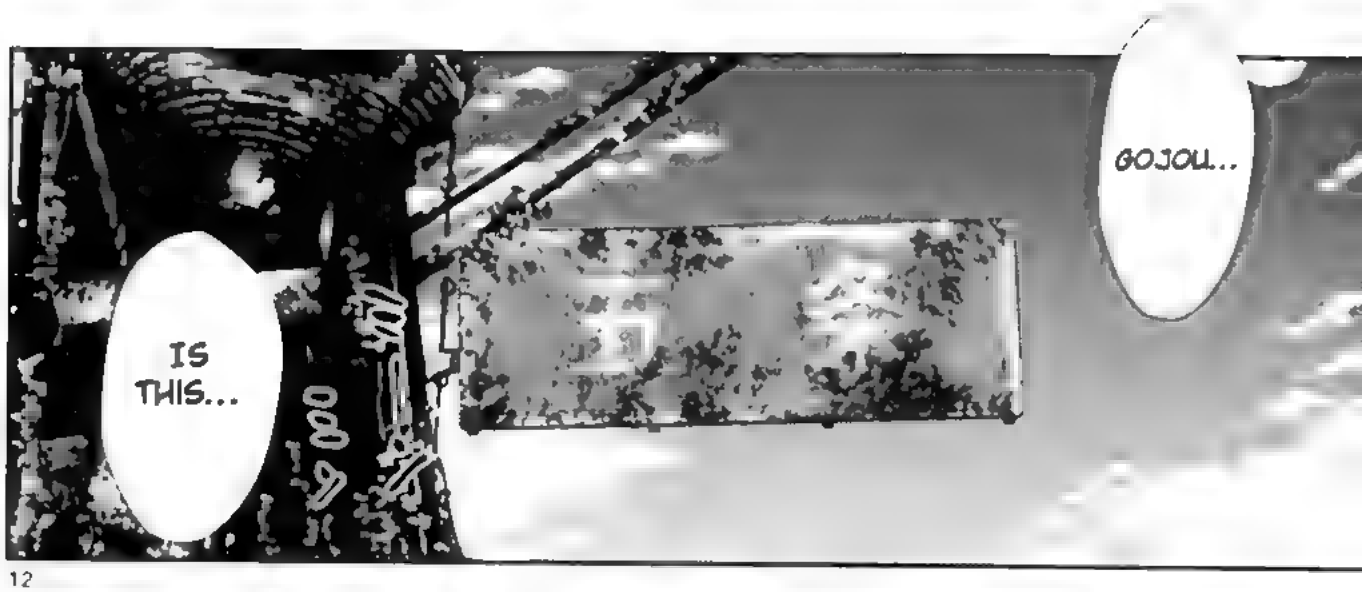
crack
pant
pant
THIS...
ISN'T A TREE?

...WHAT'S
ALL THIS?

WHAT ON EARTH
HAPPENED HERE...?

MUST BE A DREAM..
HAHA...
THIS...

FOR IT TO GET LIKE THAT?
HOW MANY YEARS MUST HAVE HAVE PASSED



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I didn't ask for any of it
UHM ...
HELLO?
I didn't wish for any of it

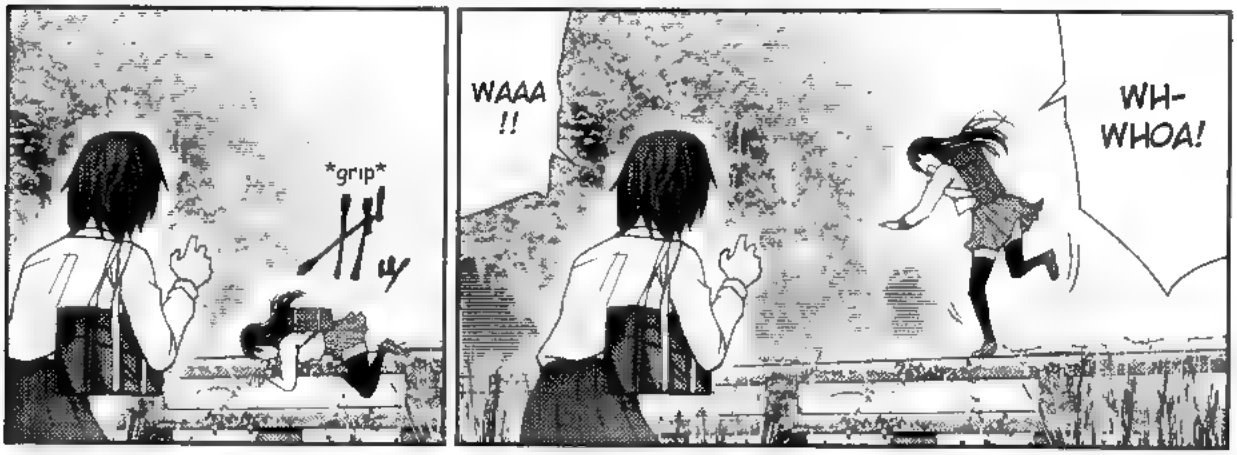
I was arbitrarily born into it before I realized anything
And then,
some day I'll die without wanting to...

Life is an 80 year long
fucked up compulsatory game

AAAAH
THAT'S SO RE-FRESHING!

Is this...
the world I was wishing for?

IS THAT WHY
I'M NOT WAKING UP FROM THIS DREAM?


grip
WAAA !!
WH- WHOA!

18

WAIT...
NORMALLY YOU'D TOTALLY GET RATTED OUT, RIGHT?
WELL ...
I JUST FELT LIKE TRYING IT OUT...
WHAT ...
ARE YOU DOING?

THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE
OTHER THAN ME HERE!

HUH..
SO
YOU'RE ALSO FROM TOKYO?

I WONDER WHY WE ENDED UP IN KYOTO...
AND ALSO,
THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE FUTURE, RIGHT?

MY LAST MEMORY IS FROM FRIDAY, I SUPPOSE...
SINCE TOMORROW WAS THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER BREAK,
I WAS GOING TO SKIP MORNING PRACTICE, AND THE SEMESTER CLOSING CEREMONY,

SO YOU ALSO DON'T REMEMBER ANY-THING...

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THIS HAS GOT TO BE A DREAM, RIGHT?

I ONLY HAD A LITTLE MONEY LEFT FROM WORK, SO KARAOKE WAS OUT...
ABSOLUTELY NO MEMORIES OF IMPORTANT THINGS
I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT WHAT I REMEMBER...

SO LIKE, AM I THE DRAMATIS PERSONAE IN YOUR DREAM?
OR MAYBE THE TWO OF US ARE HAVING THE SAME DREAM...
BOY, THIS WOULD BE A GREAT SCI-FI MOVIE!

IF IT'S A DREAM,
WE'LL WAKE UP EVENTUALLY

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THIS MIGHT BE MY FAULT...
WHAT IS?
I USED TO THINK
THAT THE WORLD WAS WORTH-LESS...

THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING GOOD IN THE WORLD...
NOTHING WAS IMPARTIAL
THAT'S WHY...
ADULTS, SOCIETY - ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING WAS WORTHLESS
MY CLASS-MATES AND SCHOOL, TOO...

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WHAT IF WE DON'T WAKE UP FROM THIS DREAM!?
I... NEVER WANTED YOU TO GET MIXED UP IN THIS!
SO WHAT IF THIS WORLD CAME ABOUT BECAUSE YOU WISHED FOR IT?
I FELT EVERYONE SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR...
IF ONLY EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING WOULD JUST GO AWAY...

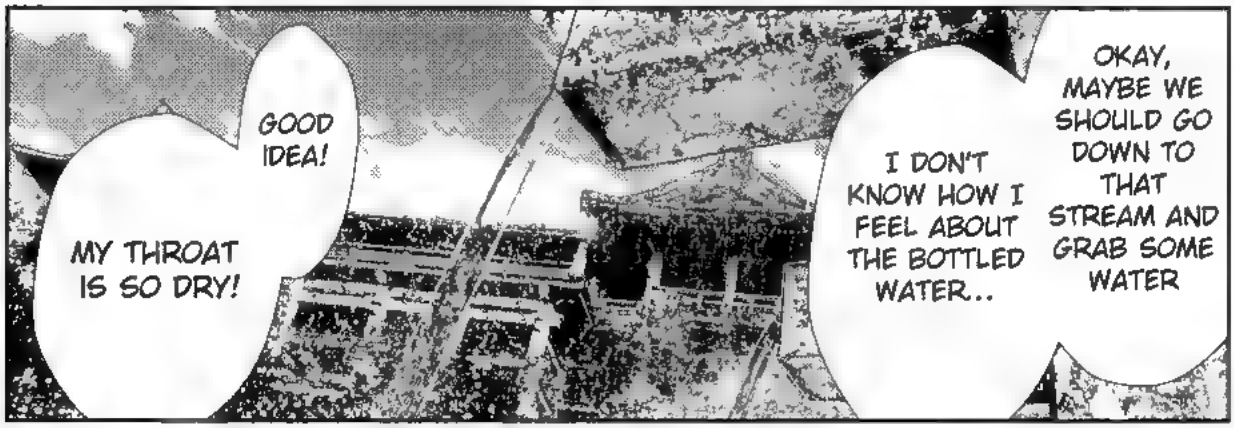
YOU'RE
JUST LIKE ME!

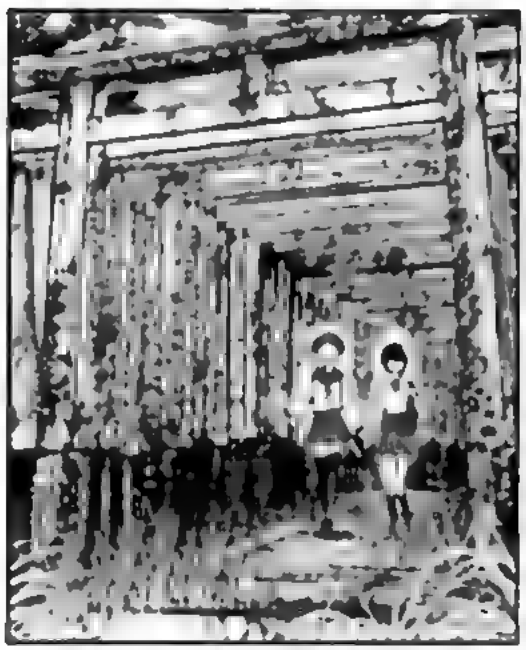
EVERY SINGLE DAY I FELT
LIKE THE WORLD WAS USELESS

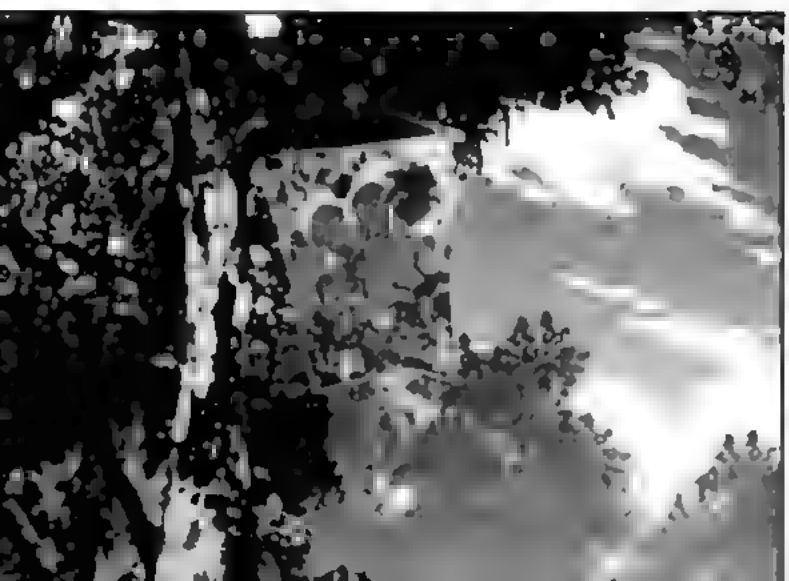
THIS IS SURELY
OUR LITTLE DREAM

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT

HEY
SINCE THIS IS A DREAM, LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT
WANNA DO
SOME SIGHT-SEEING?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME IN KYOTO!
...ME TOO


OKAY, MAYBE WE SHOULD GO DOWN TO THAT STREAM AND GRAB SOME WATER
I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE BOTTLED WATER..
GOOD IDEA!
MY THROAT IS SO DRY!





カナカナ
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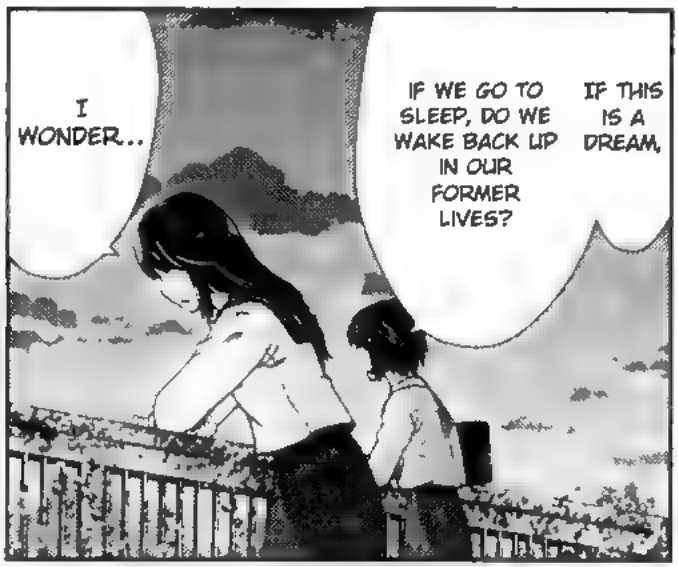
THOSE TINS SMELLED PRETTY WEIRD, HUH
I'M SO HUNGRY...

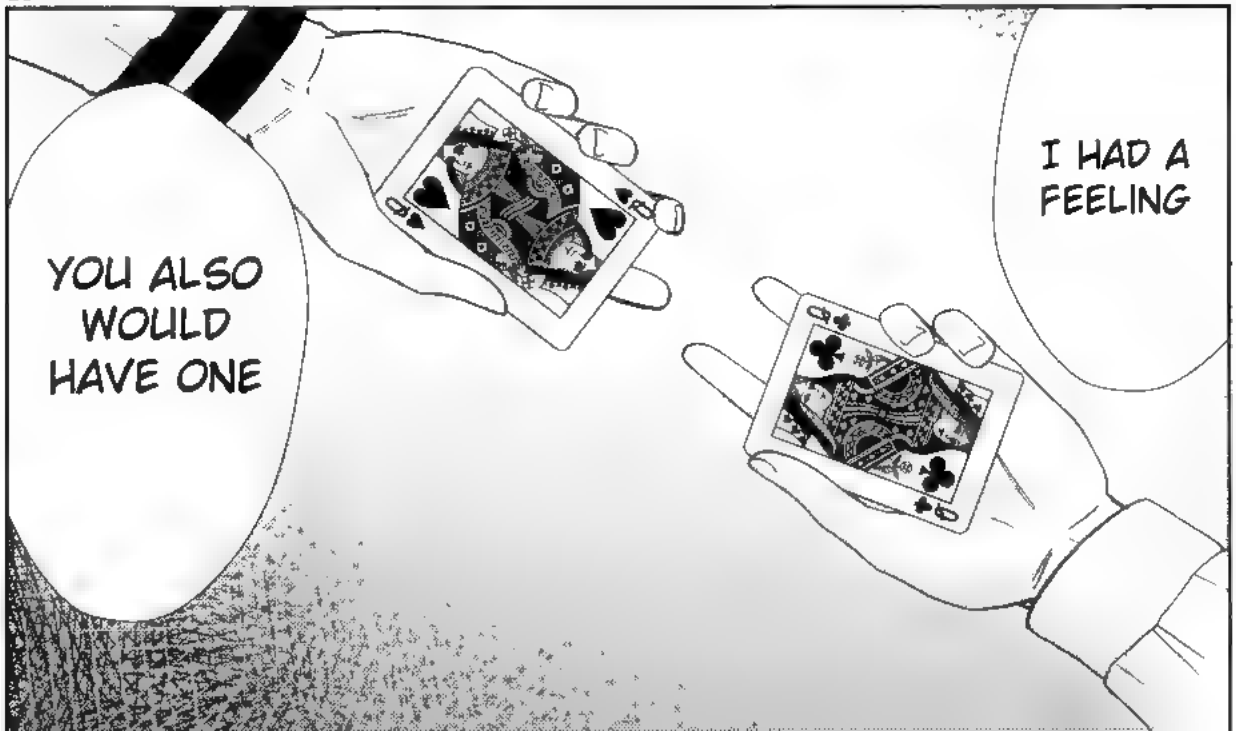
IF... IT'S ONLY THE TWO OF US
FOREVER IN THIS WORLD...


I WONDER..
IF WE GO TO SLEEP, DO WE WAKE BACK UP IN OUR FORMER LIVES?
IF THIS IS A DREAM,

WHEN I WOKE UP, IN MY HAND

I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THIS...
OH YEAH, THERE'S BEEN SO MANY SURPRISING THINGS,

A PLAYING CARD!
NO WAY!
ME TOO!!
WAS ONE OF THESE


I HAD A FEELING
YOU ALSO WOULD HAVE ONE

THIS
MIGHT BE OUR ONLY CLUE ABOUT THIS ABSOLUTELY BIZARRE WORLD
I THINK THERE ARE OTHERS
OTHERS LIKE US WHO ARE LOST HERE
IF YOU TAKE A CLOSE LOOK
THE SUITS ARE DIFFERENT

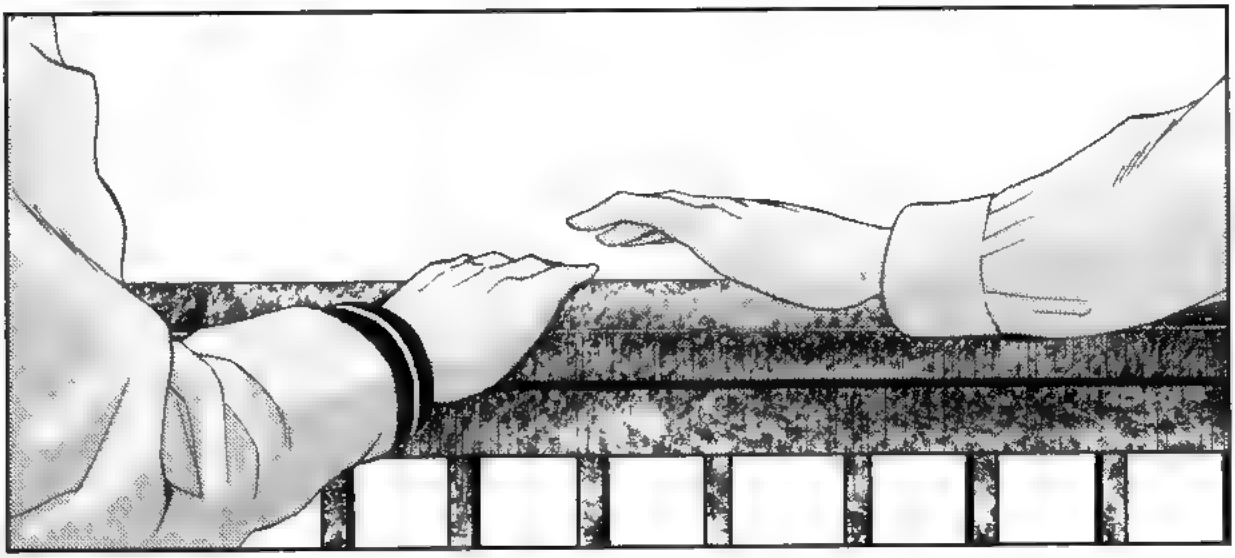
THERE MIGHT BE ADULTS IN THE MIX
IN TIMES WHEN THE TWO OF US RUN TO OUR WITS END,
THERE'S PEOPLE WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
WE'LL JUST RELY ON THE ADULTS

I'M SURE THERE'S RELIABLE PEOPLE EVEN AMONG THE ADULTS
WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH
WELL, I'M GLAD THAT
THE FIRST PERSON I MET WAS SOMEONE I COULD BECOME FRIENDS WITH!

OH...
WE HAVEN'T INTRODUCED OURSELVES YET!
SANO KIINA...

I'M ALICE
KOJIMA ALICE

I JUST WANT... TO BECOME STRONG
NOT AT ALL
SO STRONG, ALICE
YOU'RE ...



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ME TOO...

ALICE, I'M GLAD YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON I MET...

THERE'S OTHER PEOPLE

THAT MEANS

BESIDES US HERE!!

LET'S GO, KIINA!!

IT'S COMING FROM THE RIVER BED!!

F-

FIRE-WORKS?!

WHA!!

ドン
ドン
ヒュー

ドン
三条大橋

YAAAA!!
TAAAA
MAAAA

SEE I TOLD YOU THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE!!

Great Success!
I ALWAYS DID WANT TO SHOOT SOME OFF!
SO I FOUND A FIRE-WORKS FACTORY!

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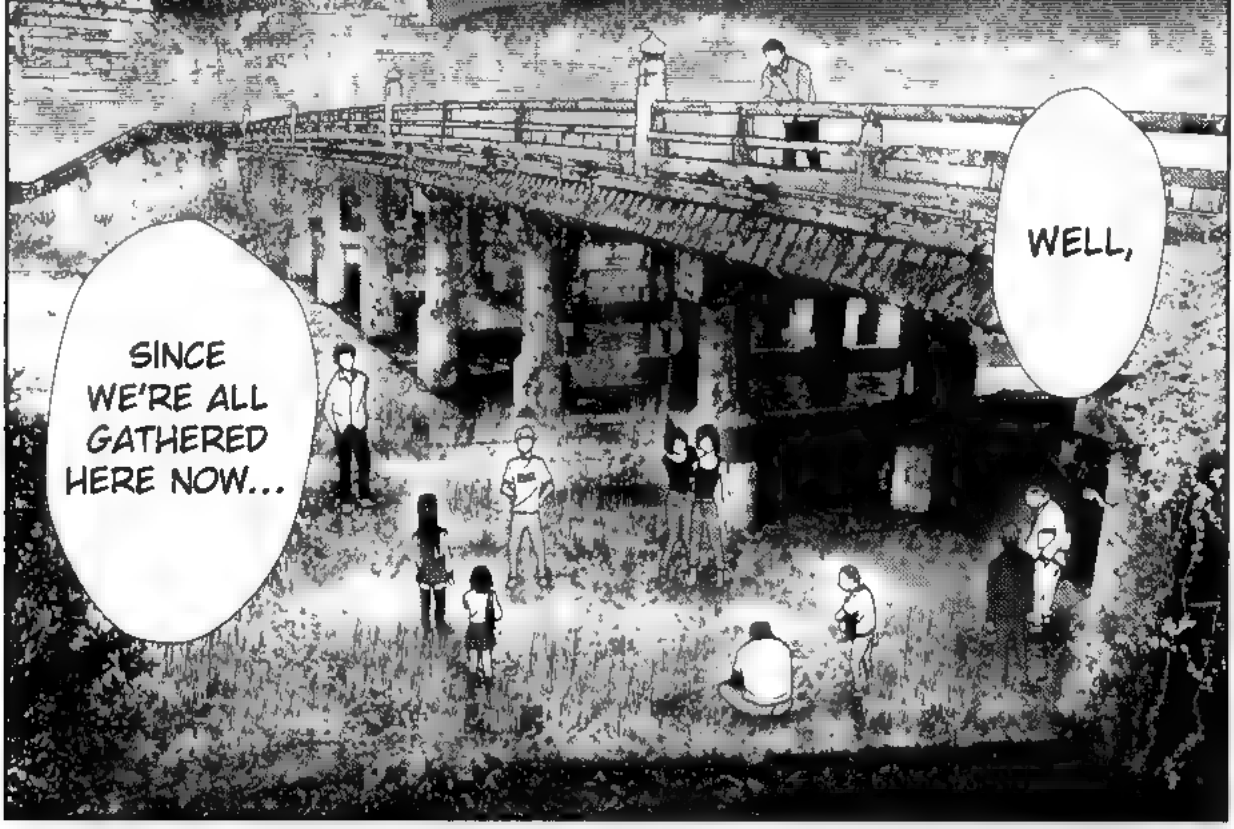
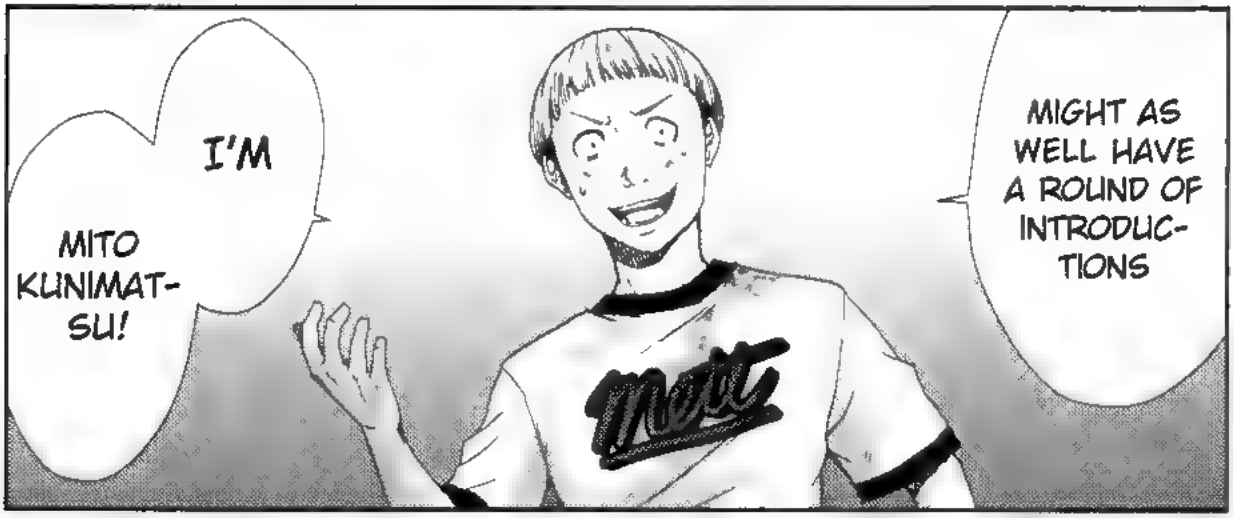
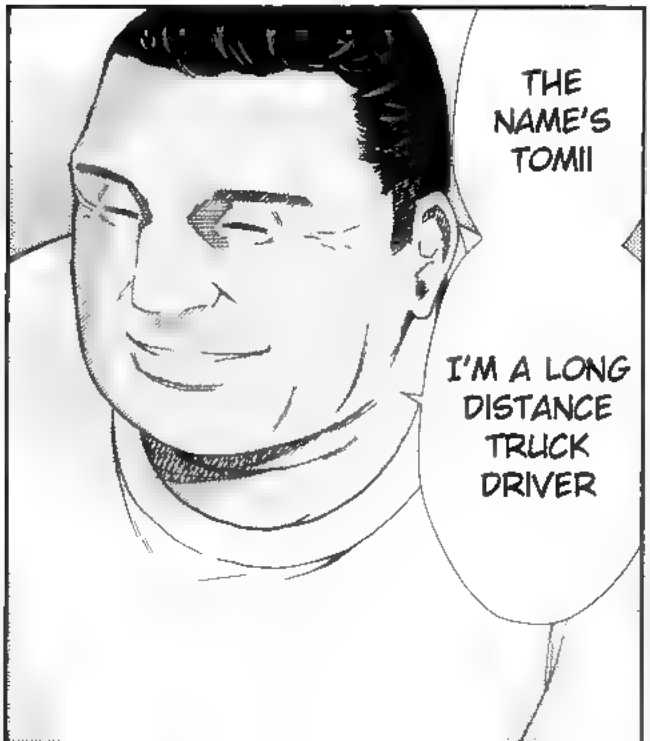

WELL,
SINCE WE'RE ALL GATHERED HERE NOW...


I'M MITO KUNIMAT-SU!
MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A ROUND OF INTRODUC-TIONS


THE NAME'S TOMII
I'M A LONG DISTANCE TRUCK DRIVER

OH
UH
MY NAME IS KUKI
BUSINESS CARDS...
A MANAGE-MENT...

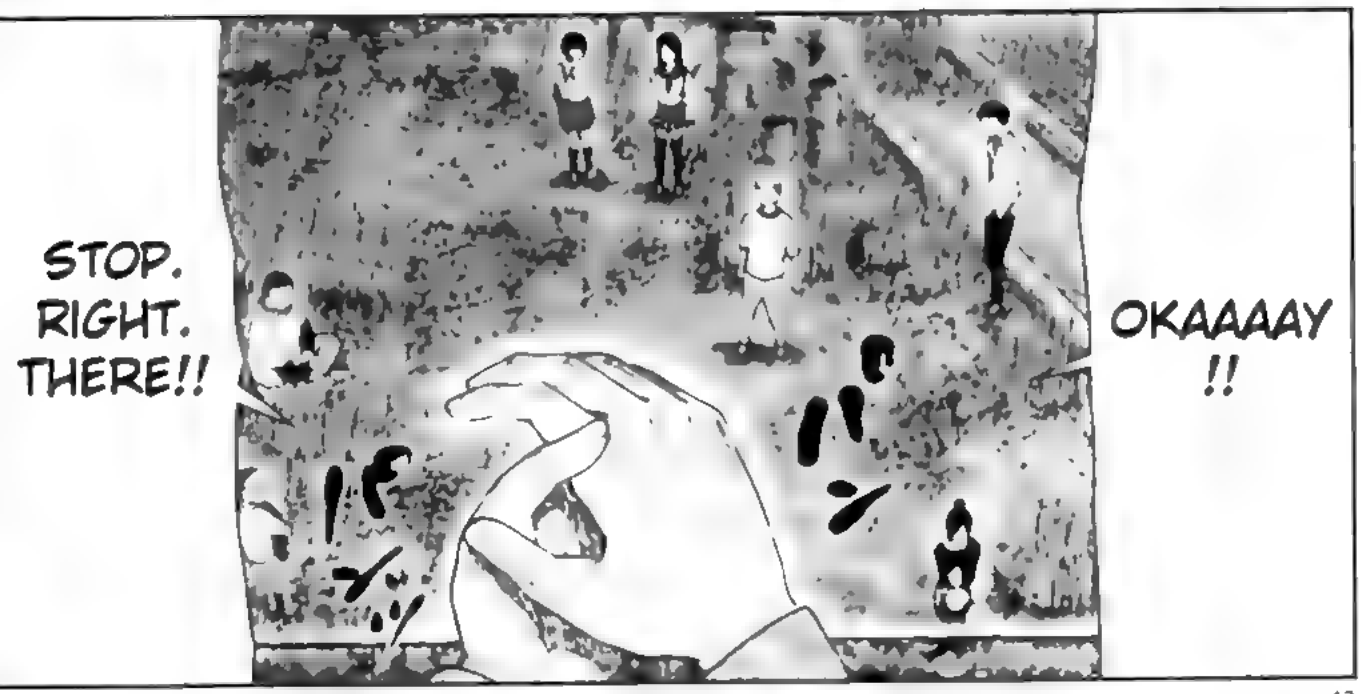
EVERYONE'S PRETTY SHY OVER HERE...
OKAY, NEXT IS...
HUH...
THOSE TWO SISTERS WILL BE STEELY AND MOODY
IF THEY DON'T WANT TO NAME THEM-SELVES, I'LL JUST GIVE THEM A NICKNAME
WHAT-EVER MAN, NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO BOTHER REMEM-BERING.

THAT GUY IS A USELESS ADULT
THIS GUY'S TOTALLY A HOODLUM
SOUR FACE

I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU
WALKING ALL DAY ANNOYED AND TRYING TO FIND SOME FOOD...
I'VE BEEN
...NO
BUT HAVE WE MET SOME-WHERE?
IT'S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL,
...EXCUSE ME!

THIS WORLD IS IN RUIN
IF YOU WANNA KILL ME, FUCKING GO FOR IT
AFTER ALL,

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME...
MAYBE
STOP THEM?!
SHOULDN'T WE...
SH-


STOP. RIGHT. THERE!!
OKAAAAY !!

THEN I GUESS THERE'S NO REASON FOR INCOMPATIBLE STRANGERS TO GATHER!!
IF WE CAN'T HAVE A LOGICAL AND COOPERATIVE DISCUSSION

I SHOULD PREFACE THAT I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE BECOMING THE LEADER,
BUT A FACILITATOR WOULD BE BENEFICIAL, DON'T YOU THINK?

ALL OF US HAVE SOME THINGS IN COMMON
HOW ABOUT WE COLLECT SOME INFORMA-TION!

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SECOND:
SOMEHOW, NONE OF US CAN REMEMBER HOW WE GOT HERE
FIRST:
WE ALL WERE SUPPOSED TO BE IN TOKYO, BUT SOMEHOW AWOKE TO THIS DEVASTATED KYOTO

THAT'S ABOUT THE GIST OF IT
THIRD:
WE ALL SEEM TO HAVE DIFFERENT CARDS FROM A DECK ON OUR BODIES

WHAT IS THIS?!
WHOA!
I'VE GOT THE J♥!!

...!

FOR REAL!?
INDEED...
I HAVE A CARD!

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS WORLD WHERE MANY YEARS HAVE SEEM TO HAVE ADVANCED?
WHERE DID ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS CITY GO?

NOW,
SHALL WE RETURN TO THE MAIN SUBJECT?

IT SEEMS ALL TOO UNREALISTIC, SO I'M SURE THIS MAY BE HARD TO SWALLOW FOR SOME
HOWEVER, AMONG THE MANY MYSTERIES, THERE ARE TWO THINGS I'M MOST FIXATED ON

WHY
DO WE EACH HAVE ONE CARD EACH?

HOW
HAVE WE AWOKEN IN KYOTO AND NOT TOKYO

DON'T THESE TWO POINTS LEADS YOU TO BELIEVE
THAT THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN FABRICATED?

IT'S JUST TOO CONVENIENT FOR THESE CARDS
I'M MORE OF A BELIEVER IN CREATIONISM RATHER THAN EVOLUTION
BULL-SHIT!!
FABRICATED... YOU MEAN SOMEONE IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS!?
JUST LIKE THE MYSTERIES OF THE HUMAN CONSCIOUS-NESS,
I CAN ONLY BELIEVE THAT THESE CARDS HOLD DIVINE IMPLICATIONS
TO BE SO NEATLY ORGANI-ZED

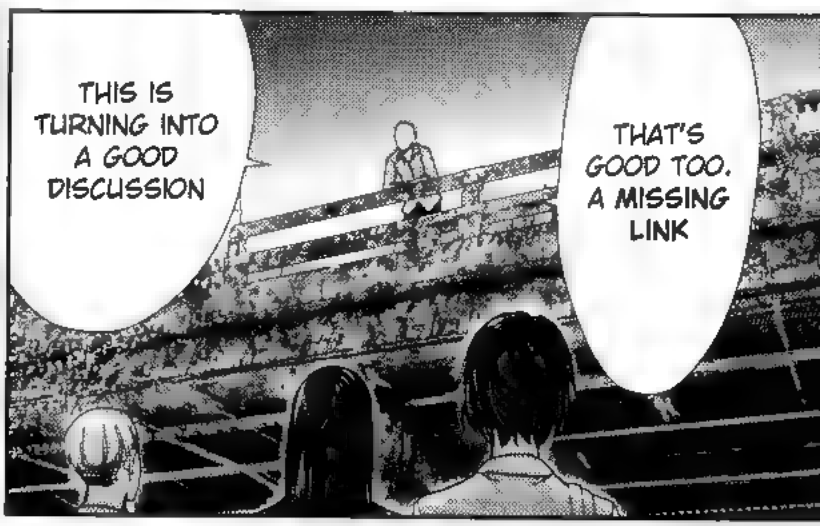
BY KILLING EACH OTHER IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THE OLD WORLD...
RIGHT?
I HOPE WE DON'T HAVE TO GATHER ALL THE CARDS
SURELY IT'S NOT LIKE THOSE DEATH GAMES OF LATE?

IN WHICH CASE,
THERE MUST BE RULES
BUT A GAME MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE OUT OF THE QUESTION
YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE JUVENILE IMAGINATION...

LIKE TRYING TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY BEFORE WE GOT HERE
OR MAYBE FINDING WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON FROM OUR PREVIOUS LIFE
THERE MUST BE A CLUE SOMEWHERE ELSE, RIGHT?

SORRY, BUT A BATTLE ROYALE ISN'T EVEN FUNNY

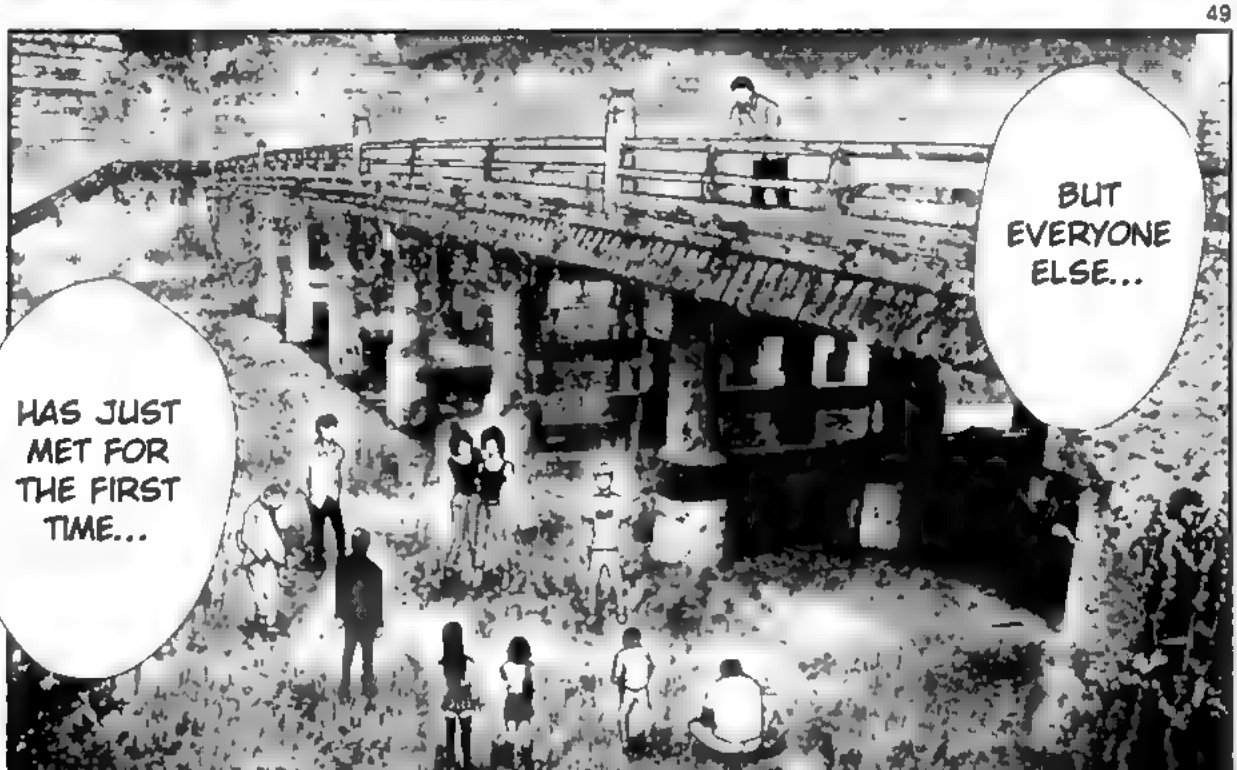
MISSING LINK...?

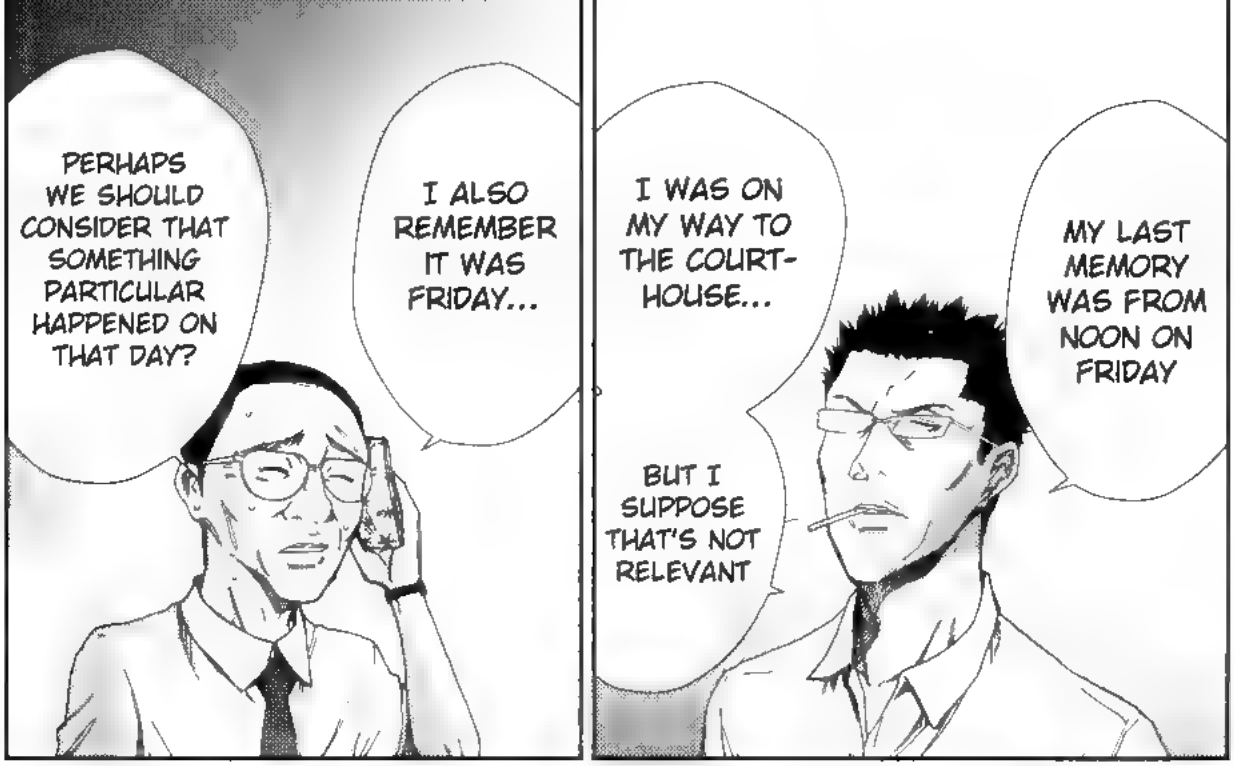

THIS IS TURNING INTO A GOOD DISCUSSION
THAT'S GOOD TOO. A MISSING LINK

WE MAY ALL SEEM UNRELATED AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING THAT INTERCONNECTS US
THE VICTIMS ALL HAVE SOMETHING FROM THE PAST THAT TIES THEM TOGETHER
IT HAPPENS OFTEN IN MYSTERY NOVELS, RIGHT?

.....
THAT'S RIGHT

YOU TWO ARE SISTERS, CORRECT?
IF I'M NOT MISTA-KEN,


HAS JUST MET FOR THE FIRST TIME...
BUT EVERYONE ELSE...


PERHAPS WE SHOULD CONSIDER THAT SOMETHING PARTICULAR HAPPENED ON THAT DAY?
I ALSO REMEMBER IT WAS FRIDAY...
I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE COURT-HOUSE...
BUT I SUPPOSE THAT'S NOT RELEVANT
MY LAST MEMORY WAS FROM NOON ON FRIDAY

DID WE FALL THROUGH A WORMHOLE AND LAND IN THE FUTURE?
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT SEEMS THAT AT LEAST 10 YEARS HAVE PASSED...

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GAMES AND WORM-HOLES
ARE FINE AND ALL...

I'M STARTING TO THINK YOUR GAME THEORY
IS GETTING EASIER TO BELIEVE
SO IF WE GATHER ALL THE CARDS,
A WORMHOLE BACK TO THE PRESENT WILL OPEN UP?

THE REST OF OUR LIVES HERE
WE MIGHT HAVE TO LIVE
LIKE FOOD AND SHELTER?
BUT WHAT ABOUT PRACTICAL CONCERNS
IT'D PROBABLY BE BETTER IF WE ACTED AS A GROUP FROM HERE ON OUT?
IF IT WERE ONLY US AROUND...
OUR LIVELI-HOOD, HUH...
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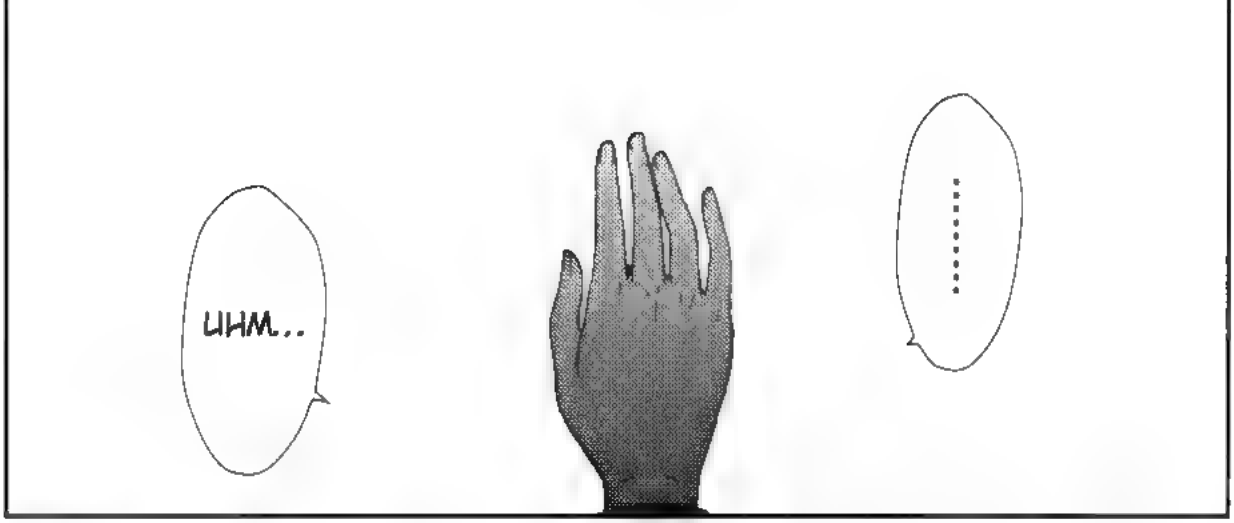
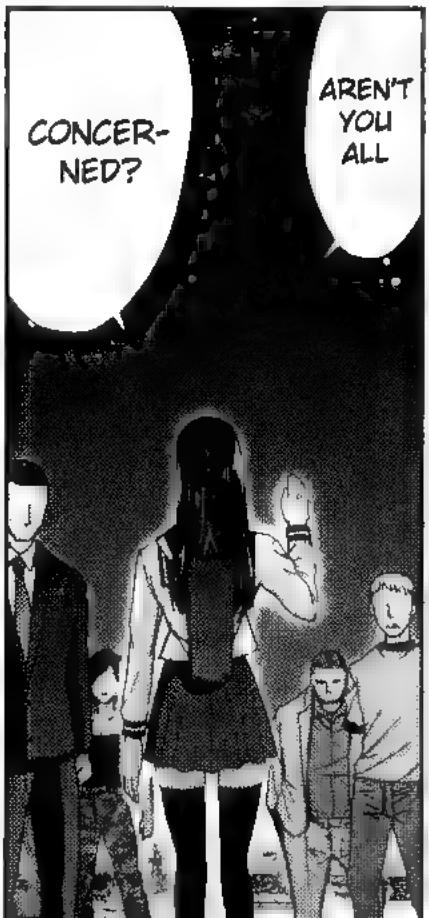
IF WE'RE UP FOR COOPE-RATING ..
WELL ...
THAT IS...





THINKING OF GOING BACK

ABOUT THE FAMILIES YOU HAD IN TOKYO, THE FRIENDS...
THE PEOPLE DEAR TO YOU?

ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CITY AND THE HOUSE
YOU LIVED IN?

I PERSO-NALLY
CAN'T LIVE WITH WAITING HERE
.....
UHM...
BUT I MEAN...

WE WERE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE IN TOKYO,
BUT THERE MUST BE SOME MEANING FOR US TO HAVE AWOKEN HERE
LIKE GACHIN-SAN SAYS,
GACHIN IS FINE
THE NAME'S KANOU GACHIN
BESI-DES... LIKE THAT MAN SAID...

PERHAPS RETURNING TO TOKYO
COULD BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE GAME'S RULES

WATER AND FOOD ARE PRETTY HARD TO COME BY, TOO...
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET BACK TO TOKYO?
BUT WHAT ABOUT A CAR?

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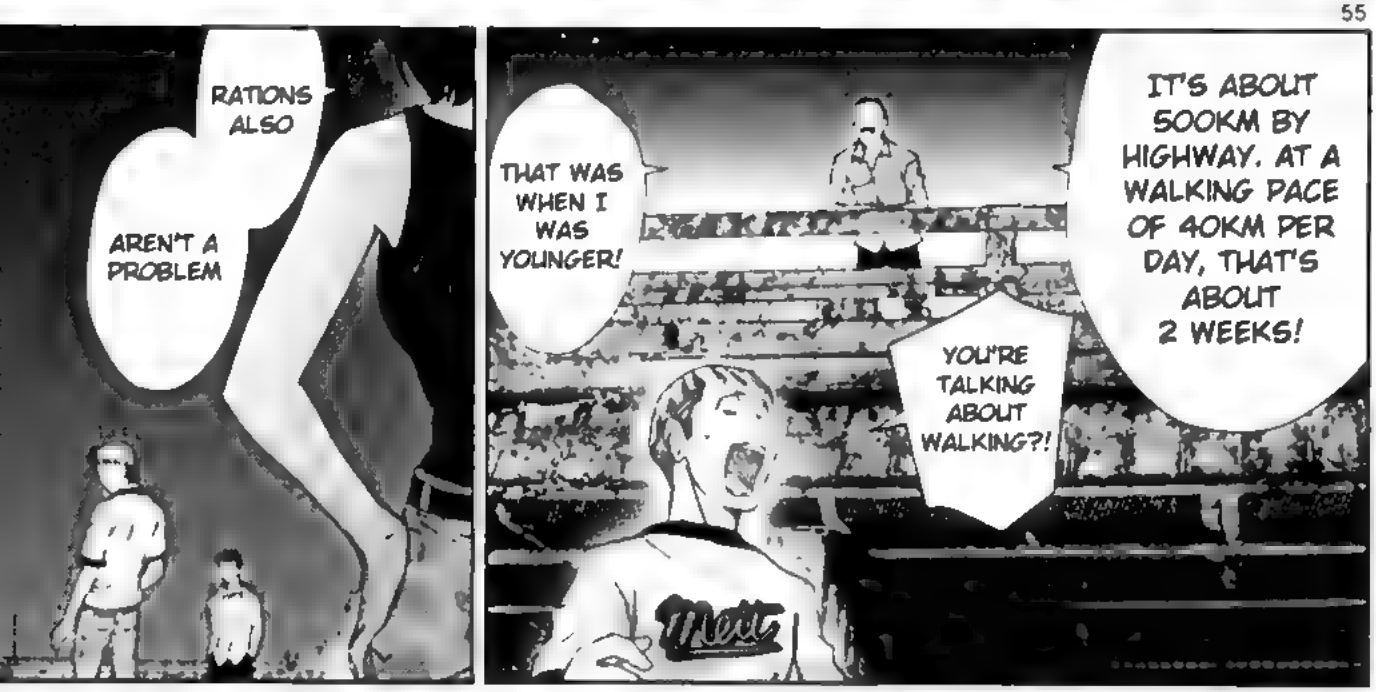

RATIONS ALSO AREN'T A PROBLEM
THAT WAS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WALKING?!
IT'S ABOUT 500KM BY HIGHWAY. AT A WALKING PACE OF 40KM PER DAY, THAT'S ABOUT 2 WEEKS!

MOST OF THE FOODS HAVE PASSED THEIR EXPIRATION BY NOW,
BUT SURVIVAL FOODS AND SPACE FOODS SHOULD BE ABLE TO LAST TENS OF YEARS
AT WORST,
EVEN IF THERE'S NO HUMANS AROUND, THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF WILDLIFE
WILD-LIFE...
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD HUNT THEM!
IMPOSSI-BLE
FOR YOU

I'M KIMU HAYON
SHE'S AYON
WE'RE USED TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES
WE'RE BORED, SO WE'LL TAG ALONG FOR THE WALK TO TOKYO

MAYBE I'LL JOIN TOO!
THE FUN SEEMS TO BE WITH ALL THE LADIES
IT'S IDIOTIC
ARE THESE PEOPLE SERIOUS?
WHAT WILL THE REST DO?
THAT MAKES 5 HEADED FOR TOKYO
TCH!
NO HAREM FOR ME!
ME TOO...
UH, THEN...
OH...

I'M SORRY,
BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CALL IT QUITS
OH NO...
WHAT-EVER
SHALL I DO...

I WAS THINKING OF HEADING OVER THERE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KID AT HOME

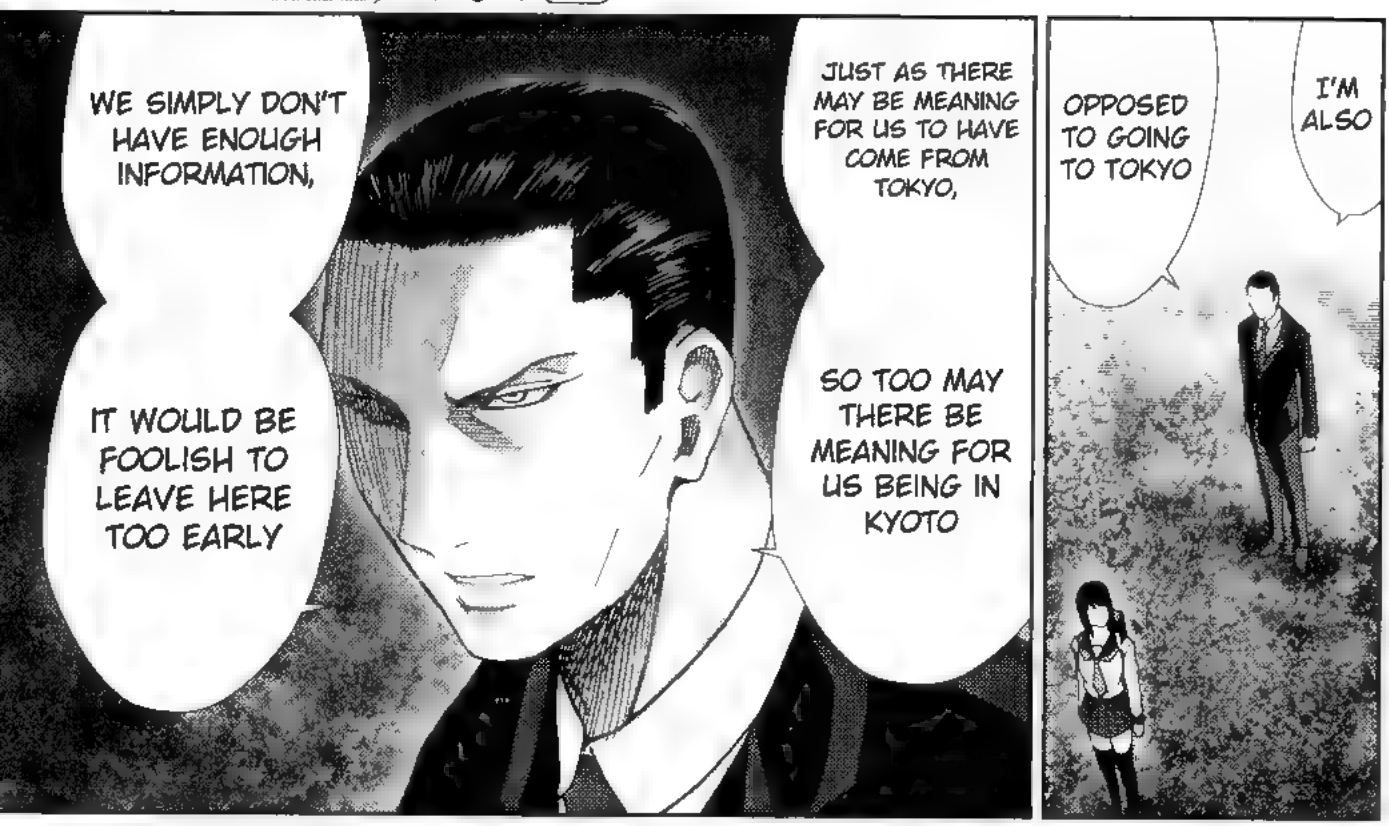
I WAS HEADED INTO TOKYO FOR WORK ON FRIDAY,
BUT MY HOMETOWN IS HERE

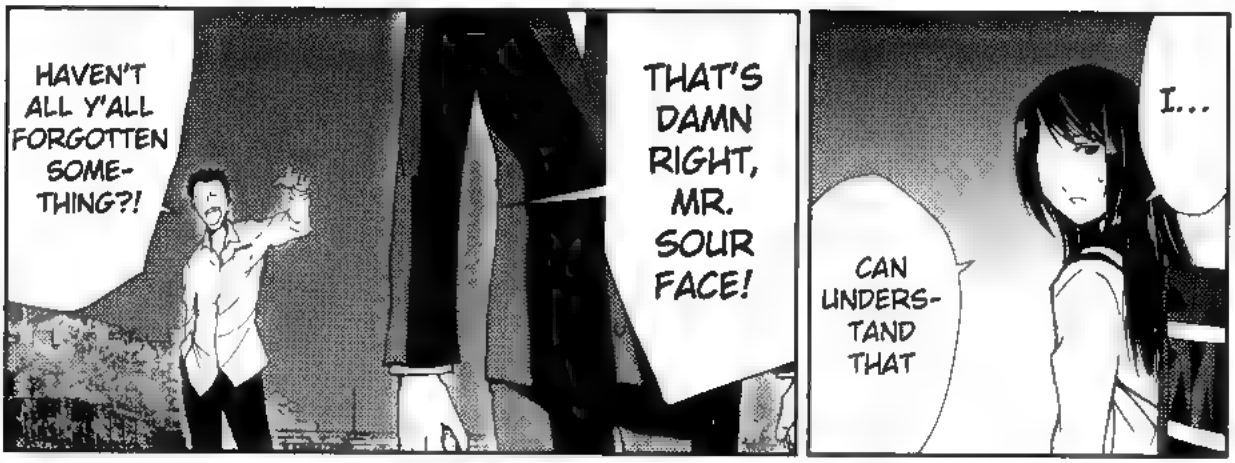
I GET THE FEELING I WON'T, THOUGH
I WONDER IF I'LL SEE THEM...

THANKS

DON'T GIVE UP UNTIL THE END

PLEASE
THEY MAY HAVE EVACUA-TED


WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION,
IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO LEAVE HERE TOO EARLY
JUST AS THERE MAY BE MEANING FOR US TO HAVE COME FROM TOKYO,
SO TOO MAY THERE BE MEANING FOR US BEING IN KYOTO
I'M ALSO
OPPOSED TO GOING TO TOKYO


HAVEN'T ALL Y'ALL FORGOTTEN SOME-THING?!
THAT'S DAMN RIGHT, MR. SOUR FACE!
I...
CAN UNDERS-TAND THAT

IT WOULDN'T BE CONVENIENT IF Y'ALL RAN YOUR SEPARATE WAYS!!
THERE'S STILL THE POSSIBILITY THIS IS A BATTLE ROYALE FOR THE PLAYING CARDS!

IF THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED US TO GATHER ALL OF THE CARDS,
WHAT WOULD WE DO?
JOKING ABOUT KILLING EACH OTHER ASIDE,

YOUR THOUGHT ABOUT TOKYO
ISN'T MUCH BETTER
AS FAR AS BASELESS EXPLANATIONS GO,
YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT RIDICULOUS THEORY?

RIDICULOUS SITUATION!!
THAT'S AN EVEN MORE
WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GATHER EVERYONE!
AT A CRITICAL MOMENT, CLOSE TO HALF OF US WOULD BE IN TOKYO

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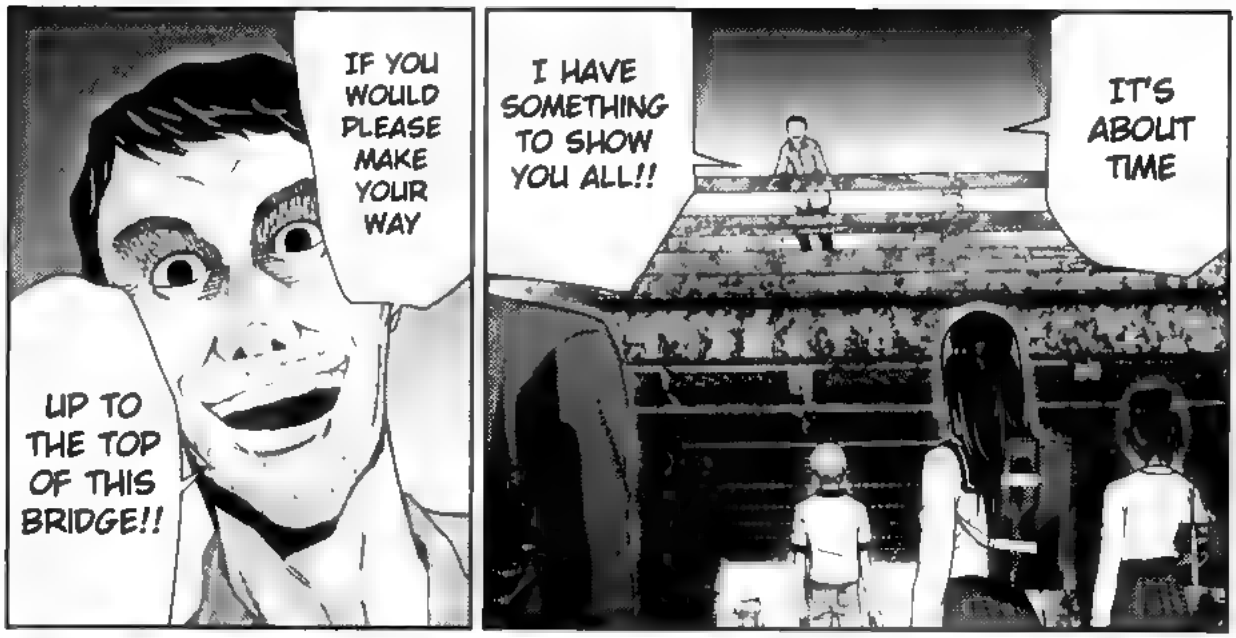
HOWEVER!
I SUPPOSE IT'S INEVITABLE ONCE YOU HAVE SO MANY SEPARATE PARTIES INVOLVED...

INTO A FACTION THAT "WANTS TO GO TO TOKYO"
AND ONE THAT "WANTS TO GATHER THE CARDS"
SO WE'VE BEGUN TO SPLINTER...


IF YOU WOULD PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY
UP TO THE TOP OF THIS BRIDGE!!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU ALL!!
IT'S ABOUT TIME

THIS IS...
...WHA

I'M HEADED TO TOKYO

07

THAT THERE ARE ONLY 11 OF US HERE

I'M SURE SOME HAVE ALREADY NOTICED

IS AMONG THOSE WHO WANT TO GO TO TOKYO
AND SO IT SEEMS LIKE
THIS K♠ WHO IS THE TWELFTH OWNER OF A PLAYING CARD

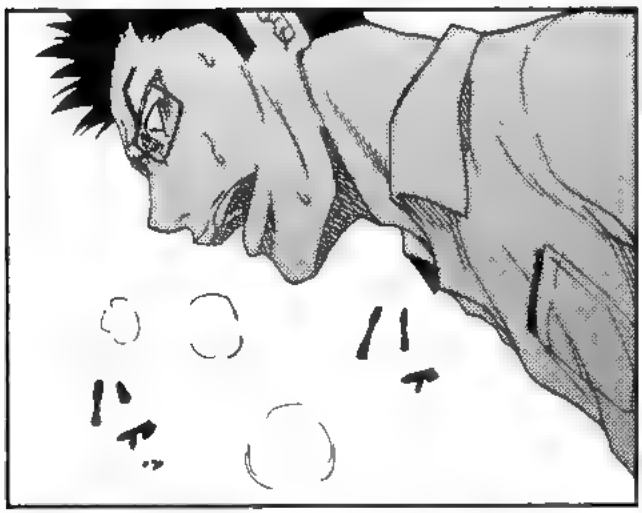
I'M HEADED TO TOKYO
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW...?
SO THOSE WHO WANT TO GATHER THE CARDS,

DAMN YOU!!!
WHAT THE FUCK DO WE DO NOW!!

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN, PIECE OF SHIT!!
GOD DAMMIT!

WHO WANT TO GATHER THE CARDS
IS TO GO TO TOKYO, RIGHT?
WE CURRENTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT CHOICE IS
THE ONLY CHOICE LEFT FOR THOSE

GOING TO GO TO TOKYO
I'M ALSO



TO 7
NOW WE'RE UP

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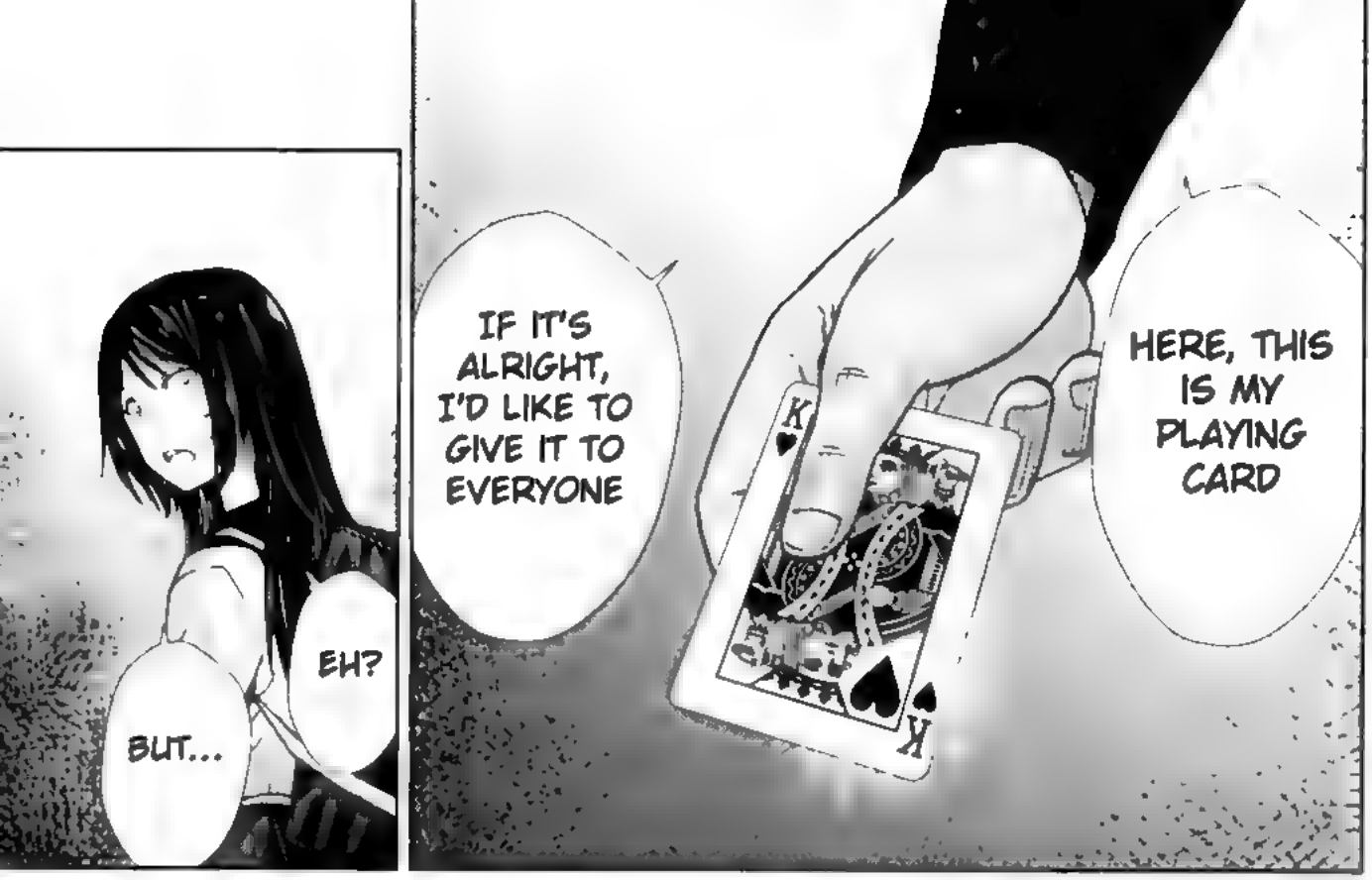
EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT...


HERE, THIS IS MY PLAYING CARD
IF IT'S ALRIGHT, I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT TO EVERYONE
EH?
BUT...

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE IDEA
IF THIS CARD HAS ANY MEANING OR NOT
BUT IN THE OFF CHANCE THAT IT DOES,
I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE IT IF THE TIME COMES THAT IT'S NEEDED

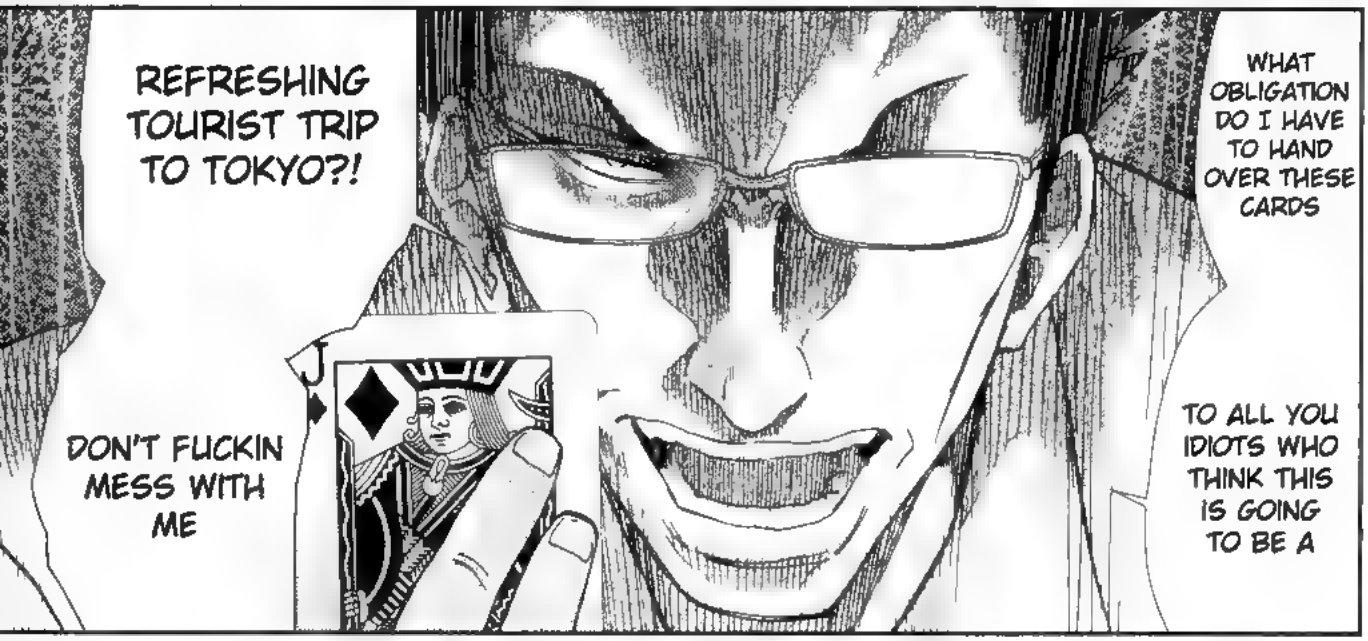
IT'S MY OWN SELFISHNESS THAT COMPELS ME TO GO HOME,
BUT I DON'T WANT THAT TO TROUBLE THE REST OF YOU

SO IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, FEEL FREE TO CATCH UP WITH US
WE'LL BE SURE TO LEAVE GUIDEPOSTS,
IF ONLY FOR SAFE-KEEPING
THEN...

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF GOING TO TOKYO!!
I'M TELLING YOU NOW,

THIS IS THE END FOR GATHERING CARDS
DO WHATEVER THE FUCK YOU WANT
YOU'RE ALL INSANE FOR THINKING YOU CAN WALK THROUGH THE FORESTS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER AND GET THERE IN TWO WEEKS!

WHAT IF
THIS THING REPRESENTS EACH OF OUR OWN LIFELINES?
QUIT SPOUTIN' YOUR NONSENSE
BUT FOLLOW THIS GUY'S EXAMPLE
HAND OVER YOUR CARDS...
IT'S UP TO THE REST OF YOU,


REFRESHING TOURIST TRIP TO TOKYO?!
DON'T FUCKIN MESS WITH ME
WHAT OBLIGATION DO I HAVE TO HAND OVER THESE CARDS
TO ALL YOU IDIOTS WHO THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE A

THIS TIME, IT'S NOT SIMPLY A THREAT
I'LL KILL YOU

HOW ANNOYING ARE YOU GOING TO BE...
HONES-TLY,

I KNOW
I'M IN THE SAME BUSINESS, AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TYPE OF GUY YOU ARE
...FINE

WE MUST ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LAWS AND REGULA-TIONS
AS LONG AS THERE'S STILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COUNTRY OF JAPAN STILL EXISTS,
WHAT IF WE WALK HALF A DAY AND ARRIVE AT SOME PLACE WITH WORKING CARS AND TRAINS?
THIS IS AS FAR WE SHOULD TAKE OUR LAWLESS-NESS

CIVILIZED HUMAN BEINGS
ALL OF US ARE STILL

WELL, WE CAN CHOOSE TO HAVE A FALLING OUT AT ANY TIME
HOW ABOUT WE CALL IT A DAY FOR TODAY?

AND TAKE A NIGHT TO GATHER OUR THOUGHTS...
LET'S CLEAR OUR MINDS
WE'VE EXPERIENCED ONE TOO MANY EVENTS BEYOND OUR COMPRE-HENSION

ALICE.
AREN'T YOU SCARED?
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US NOW?

I'M SCARED,
BUT I THINK THAT'S WHY I'M ABLE TO MAINTAIN MY OWN SANITY

...HEY ALICE
HM?
CAN I COME WITH YOU?

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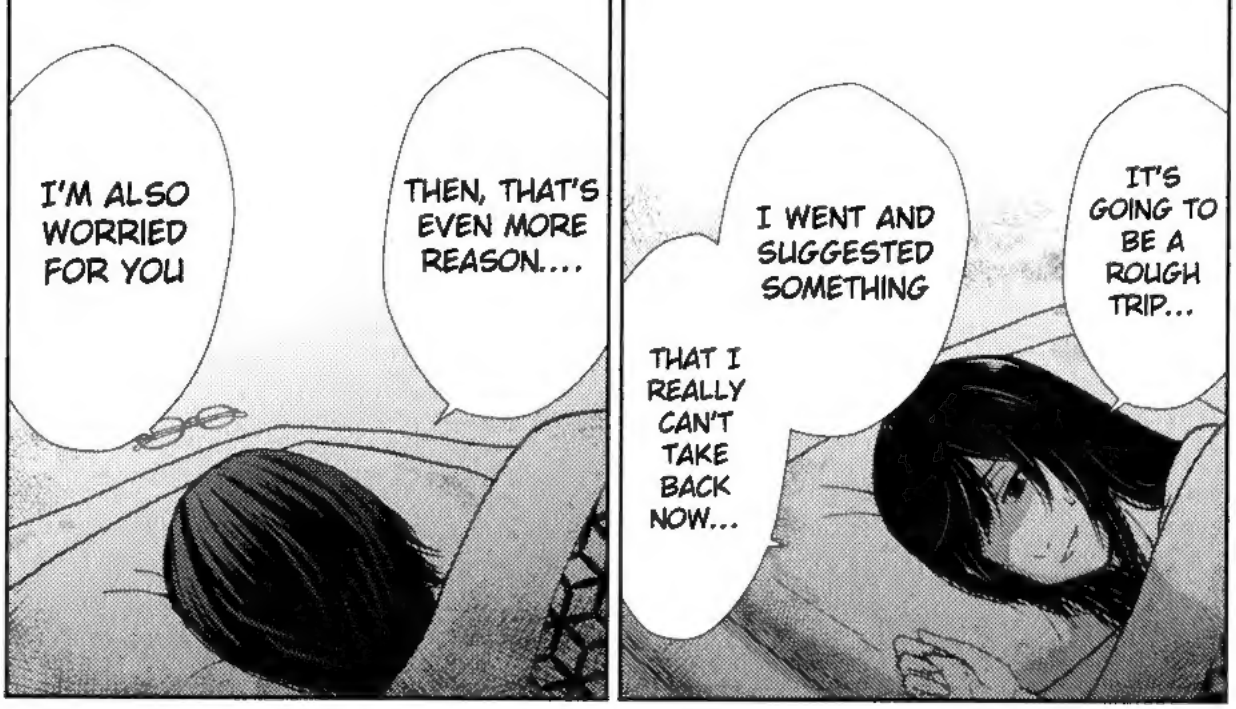
TOKYO...
I'D LIKE TO SEE
WHAT HAPPENED TO IT
WITH MY VERY OWN EYES

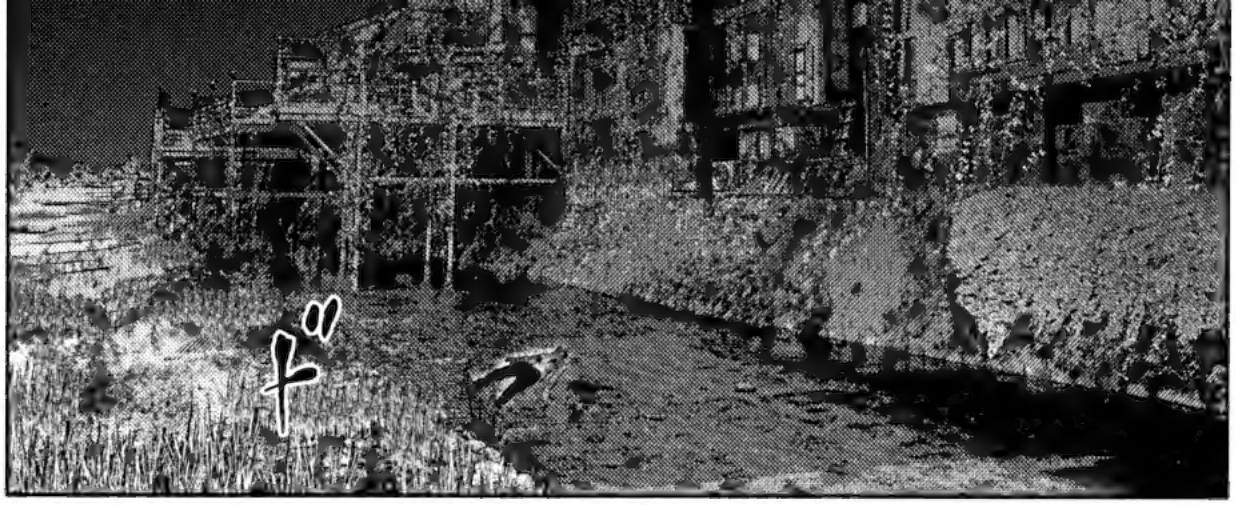

I'M ALSO WORRIED FOR YOU
THEN, THAT'S EVEN MORE REASON....
IT'S GOING TO BE A ROUGH TRIP...
I WENT AND SUGGESTED SOMETHING
THAT I REALLY CAN'T TAKE BACK NOW...

THANK YOU
AS A FRIEND

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND...?
IS MITO-KUN STILL LIGHTING FIREWORKS?
LET'S TRY TO FORCE OURSELVES TO SLEEP
WE NEED TO CONSERVE OUR STAMINA

YOU'RE RIGHT...
GOOD NIGHT...

18...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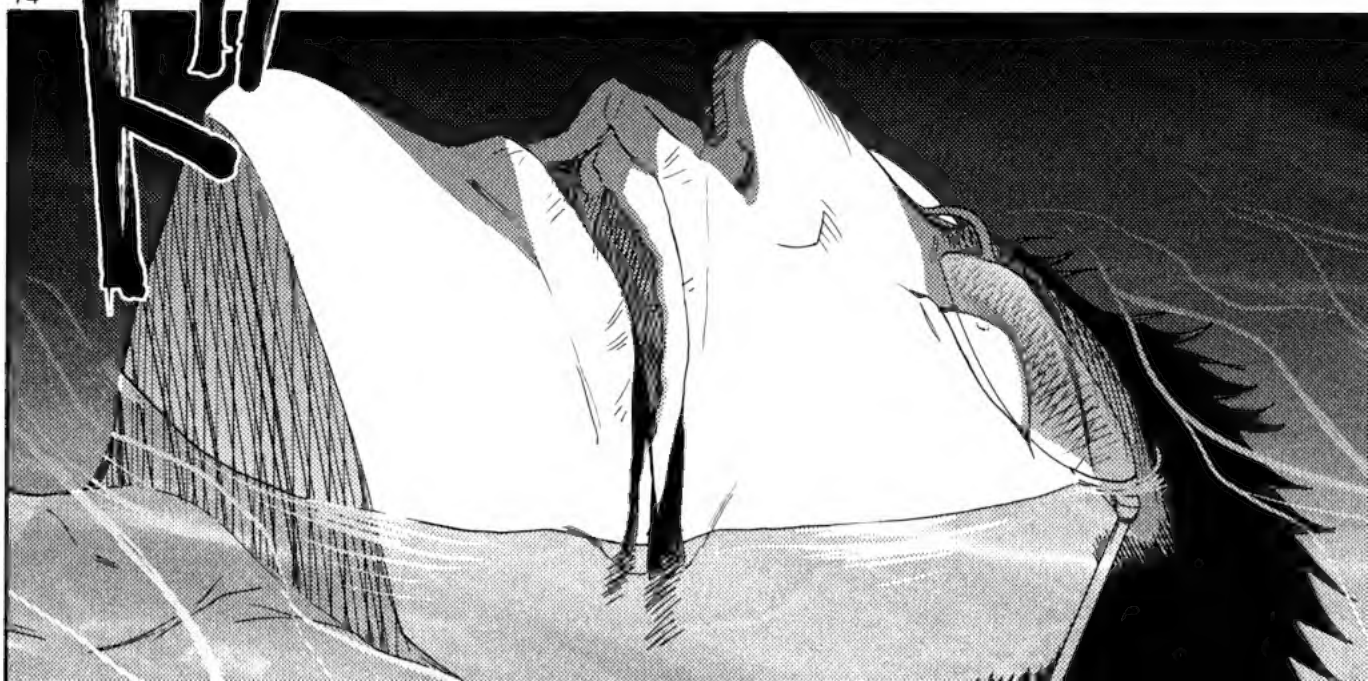
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TYPESETTER
Neobrakeon
CLEANER
shademh
TRANSLATOR
nfinite
SCANS
NEST
REDRAWER
shademh
PROOFREADER
Voyrin